

Re:

SB No. 215 An Act Concerning the Establishment of New State Parks

Louis D. Pietig, Advocacy Chair
Friends of Sherwood Island State Park
Westport, Ct 06880

Dear Members of the Environment Committee,

One of our Board members will be speaking but we as Board wished to submit the following testimony regarding SB215.

The Friends of Sherwood Island State Park wishes to express its very strong vote of opposition to the insertion of proposed restrictive language into the existing statute regarding establishment of any state parks.

The proposed restrictions do not benefit the common good, but do limit the ability of the State to access public land. To reiterate the position of Friends of CT State Parks "If the State by statute change is in essence required "to ask permission" of local governments before establishing a state park, opportunities for increased public sharing of our natural and historic treasures will be painfully diminished"

While Sherwood Island was the first property to be acquired for public use as a State Park, if the proposed language and restrictions were in place, the more than twenty year battle that took place would have been lost to private developers. What a loss! One of Connecticut's marvelous Coastline Gateway park would not have existed for the millions of visitors who have used the park, and access to Long Island Sound would have been restricted to a few privileged land owners.

As representatives of " The People of Connecticut" please Vote no to restricting your own agencies from continuing to protect and provide public lands for every citizen enjoyment, benefit and environmental health.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Louis D Pietig
submitted on behalf of
Friends of Sherwood Island State Park Inc.